

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently amended): A process for producing zeaxanthin and β -cryptoxanthin which comprises cultivating a recombinant *Xanthophyllomyces dendrorhous* (*Phaffia rhodozyma*) ATCC96815 microorganism which expresses a β -carotene hydroxylase gene that is originated from *Flavobacterium* sp. R1534 WT (ATCC21588) or *Erwinia herbicola* ATCC39368 and ~~belongs to the genus *Xanthophyllomyces* (*Phaffia*)~~ in an aqueous nutrient medium under aerobic conditions, and isolating the resulting carotenoids from the cells of said recombinant microorganism or from the cultured broth, wherein the β -carotene hydroxylase gene is expressed in the recombinant *Xanthophyllomyces dendrorhous* using an expression vector containing control sequences of glyceraldehyde-3-dehydrogenase gene ~~β -carotene hydroxylase gene is originated from a microorganism which is selected from the group consisting of *Flavobacterium* sp. R1534 WT (ATCC21588), *Erwinia uredoverya* ATCC19321, *Erwinia herbicola* ATCC39368, *Agrobacterium aurantiacum*, *Alcaligenes PC-1*, *Paracoccus marcusii* MH1, and a gram-negative bacteria E-396 (FERN BP 4283) which have the β -carotene hydroxylase gene and wherein the cultivation is carried out at a pH range from 4 to 8 and at a temperature range from 15 to 26°C for 24 to 500 hours.~~

Claims 2-7. (Cancelled).

Claim 8. (Previously presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the cultivation is carried out at pH range from 5 to 7 and at a temperature range from 18 to 22°C for 48 to 350 hours.

Claims 9-10. (Cancelled).